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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DODE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CPR-02 PRS-01 RSR-01 /073 W
---------- 130369
P R 191650Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1684
INFO USNATO 1912

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3197

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, NL
SUBJECT: SECDEF'S PLANS TO INVITE DEFENSE MINISTER VREDELING TO WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 139011

1. DEFENSE MINISTER VREDELING HAS BEEN IN ALL-DAY CABINET MEETINGS THIS WEEK AND HE IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE ON JULY 21 FOR A THREE WEEK VACATION. IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY AND ON THE ADVICE OF HIS PERSONAL ASSISTANT THE CHARGE SPOKE TO VREDELING BY PHONE ON JULY 18 TI DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF A ONE-DAY VISIT TO WASHINGTON ON THE INVITATION OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. CHARGE MENTIONED SIMILAR VISITS IN PROCESS OR PLANNED BY THE DEFENSE MINISTERS OF SEVERAL OF OUR OTHER MAJOR ALLIES. VREDELING WAS MOST GRATIFIED BUT INDICATED THAT HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO COME AT A LATER DATE, WHEN HOPEFULLY HE COULD SPEND SEVERAL DAYS TO INCLUDE A VISIT TO DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLIER VISIT AS SUGG ESTED
BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND PROMISED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH THE CHARGE.

2. VREDELING'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT HAS JUST RELAYED MESSAGE FROM HIM WHILE THE CABINET IS MEETING SAYING THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO VISIT WASHINGTON FOR TALKS WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND OTHERS FOR THE ONE DAY OF WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22. CHARGE EXPRESSED CONFIDENTIAL

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APPRECIATION FOR THIS INFORMATION, WHICH HE SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT TO

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WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY. HE ASKED THE PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO EXPLAIN TO THE MINISTER THAT IN KEEPING WITH US PRACTICE TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DUTCH. THE
PERSONAL ASSISTANT SIGNIFIED UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT WITH THIS. THE CHARGE ADDED THAT IF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER WERE IN A POSITION TO MAKE FINAL PLANS FOR THE VISIT, AN OFFICIAL INVITATION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING TO VREDELING FROM THE DOD. CHARGE WAS ASSURED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY IN RELAYING THIS TO VREDELING WHILE HE WAS ON LEAVE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: ASSUMING THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER IS AGREEABLE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT OFFICIAL INVITATION FOR AUGUST 22 VISIT BE TRANSMITTED VIA THE EMBASSY TO VREDELING AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE TO ASSIST HIM AND HIS OFFICE IN PLANNING HIS SCHEDULE AFTER HE RETURNS FROM VACATION. AS PERSONAL ASSISTANT SAID THE MINISTER IS UP TO HIS EARS IN THE DEFENSE BUDGET THESE DAYS.

4. ONCE INVITATION HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED EMBASSY WILL SUBMIT SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION PLUS PERTINENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION.
TANGUY

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